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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

Yemen:* draft resolution

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 64/204 of 21 December 2009 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[2]

Taking into account Agenda 21[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

Reaffirming that States have sovereign rights over their own biological recourses,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Reaffirming also the commitment of Member States to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority which sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[5] of 1997,

Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[6] for developing countries, and recognizing the need to accelerate its implementation including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

Noting with appreciation the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury, held in Stockholm in 2010, and encouraging further efforts towards a successful conclusion of the negotiations,

Recognizing the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing to address issues relating to chemicals and wastes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session and the decisions contained therein;[7]

2. *Welcomes* the Nusa Dua Declaration[8] of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

3. *Recognizes* the ratification of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity,[9] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10] the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,[11] the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade[12] and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,[13] contributes to more coherent and

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[6] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[7] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25).

[8] Ibid., annex I, decision SS.X1/9.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[11] Ibid., vol. 1673, No. 28911.

[12] Ibid., vol. 2244, No. 39973.

[13] Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.

effective international environmental governance and, in this context, invites Member States to ratify relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

4. *Calls for* an increased and strengthened financial resources base for the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to efficiently and effectively perform its mandate, in particular with respect to the implementation of all three environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to enhance cooperation and coordination on issues relating to the three chemical conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements, and in this regard welcomes the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions;

6. *Notes* the revised administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme, signed in Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, and invites the Executive Director of the Programme to extend to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity services and facilities similar to those provided to the two other environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro by the United Nations, in particular on issues related to programme support costs;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,[14] particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and welcomes the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury;

8. *Recognizes* the important role played by the regional centres, in particular with regard to the implementation of international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and in this regard emphasizes the need for a sustainable financing mechanism for those centres so as to promote effective implementation of the commitments set out in the chemical conventions in developing countries at the regional and subregional levels;

9. *Recalls* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SSXI/1 of 26 February 2010, by which the Council noted the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives,[15] invited the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continued process of improving international environmental governance, and decided that the group would present its final report to the Council in time for the contribution of the Council to the second meeting of the preparatory committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

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[14] See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.

[15] UNEP/GCSS/XI/4, annex.

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to promote and strengthen synergies and cooperative efforts aimed at speeding up the fulfilment of their respective objectives, goals and programmes of work, in particular with regard to poverty eradication;

11. *Underlines* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[6] with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan, and notes the invitation to all other relevant organizations to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities;

13. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation and that it is a valuable and essential component of international cooperation in implementing capacity-building and technical support programmes to achieve national and international environmental goals;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide ideas and proposals reflecting its experience and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

15. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and, in this regard, notes that the fifth Global Environment Outlook and its related summary for policymakers is currently under preparation;

16. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

17. *Expresses concern* about the gradual loss of capacities, flexibility and human and financial resources of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and strongly reiterates the need to reinforce the role of these offices in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and

regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work;

18. *Notes* the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[16] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

19. *Takes into account* the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth session, in which the Conference of the Parties recommended the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and, in this regard, requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements of the platform, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to consider modalities and arrangements to fully operationalize the platform at the earliest opportunity;

20. *Reiterates* the need for improved conservation of coastal and marine resources and integrated coastal management, and urges the international community to continue and enhance its support for small island developing States to strengthen their implementation of integrated coastal zone management strategies and their scientific research capacity;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present progress reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, indicating clearly the ongoing activities and results, including the allocated budgets, that fall within the framework of the Plan for developing countries;

22. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and, in that regard, urges the Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;

23. *Also welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

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[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

24. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

25. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its 26th session".